



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26  
Wednesday, 3 December 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.00pm.

The committee called the Defence portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- Claims processing including wait times;
- Permanent impairment claims;
- Bulk billing GP numbers in ACT accepting veterans' cards;
- Terms of reference for inquiry into the Australian Defence Force inquiry into sexual assault in the Australian Defence Force;
- Department's response to Issues relating to advocacy services for veterans accessing compensation and income support;
- Integration of AI in claims processing; and
- Low level Blast Overpressure Exposure and Repetitive Blast Overpressure Exposure.

Australian War Memorial (AWM)

- New entrance and upgrades to galleries;
- Contracts awarded to weapons manufacturers;
- Exhibitions involving Ben Roberts Smith;
- New appointments to the AWM Board and framework for appointments;
- Processes for updating descriptions of physical displays and digital display records; and
- Les Carlson Literacy Award – participants and winner.

Department of Defence

- Increased People's Liberation Army activities in the Pacific region including the use of flares;
- Creation of a new Defence procurement agency;
- Offshore wind turbines impacting air defence systems;
- Defence spending as a percentage of GDP;
- Terms of reference for inquiry into sexual assault in the Australian Defence Force;
- Ghost Shark contract;
- MRH-90 Helicopter crash;
- F-35 Program and increased flying hours;
- Renumeration of SES level defence employees;
- Sovereign munition manufacturing and fuel reserves;
- Defence capability gaps and future investments;
- Indo Pacific International Maritime Exposition attendance cost;
- Contracts entered into with companies affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party;
- Consultation with Defence prior to government engagement with PsiQuantum;

- Defence support to Ukraine and potential future assistance announcements;
- Weapons export permits to Sudan; and
- Countries withdrawing from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

#### Australian Submarine Agency

- UK Barrow and industrial base preparations to deliver SSN-AUKUS submarines;
- Calls for review of AUKUS costs; and
- Nuclear waste storage and disposal.

#### Australian Signals Directorate (ASD)

- Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security investigations into ASD procurements;
- Declarations of conflicts of interests relating to procurement; and
- Post-quantum cryptography.

The committee released Defence Housing Australia, the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on 4 December 2025 in the Main Committee Room (1R0), for examination of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and portfolio agencies.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3535 or [FADT.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:FADT.sen@aph.gov.au) if you have any questions.